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U.S. ARMY TARDEC WINS FOUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

ORLANDO, Fla. and WARREN, Mich. – Dec. 2, 2004 – The U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) today announced that the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology has recognized four TARDEC employees for the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC)'s 2004 Army Research and Development Achievement (RDA) Award. TARDEC's RDA Award recipients span three vital advanced military automotive technology developments supporting our Soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Global War on Terrorism.

This year's RDA Award winners are recognized this week at the 24th Army Science Conference in Orlando, Florida. TARDEC's RDA Award winners are:

- ♦ CPT Greg Hetzel and Michael Manceor – HMMWV Armor Survivability Kits (ASKs)
- ♦ Michael John Clauson - Vehicle Body Armor Support System (V-BASS)
- ♦ Charles Acir – Army Active Protection and Electronic Warfare Systems

"These scientists and engineers have distinguished themselves through their proven scientific and technical excellence," said Thomas H. Killion, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology, in a memo addressed to the Commanding General, U.S. AMC. "Their individual contributions promise to improve the Army's capability, and to enhance our Transformation from the Current to the Future Force."

"Their hard work and dedication brings great credit to themselves, the U.S. Army Materiel Command and the U.S. Army," Killion added.

HMMWV Armor Survivability Kits (ASKs)

The add-on HMMWV ASK provides door, rocker panel and back plate armor protection and ballistic glass windows for all variants of the HMMWV. The kit was developed, manufactured and deployed in the matter of months after it became evident that the HMMWV was becoming vulnerable to small arms fire and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks. These kits effectively stop those threats from penetrating the cabins of the Army's various HMMWV configurations. The Army is also working with the Marine Corps and Air Force to adapt these kits to the HMMWV armor requirements specific to those services. In support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, these kits have proven to be enormously successful in saving lives and limiting injury to HMMWV crews.



TARDEC was a 2004 recipient of the Research & Development Laboratory of the Year Award for its collaborative effort with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) in developing the ASK. This award was presented by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA ALT)/Army Laboratory Assessment Group (ALG).

Vehicle Body Army Support System (V-BASS)

The V-BASS is high performance body armor for truck drivers. Consisting of back, side and front plates, V-BASS straps into existing vehicle seats, providing logistics drivers increased protection from small arms fire and IED shrapnel. With over three times the protection level of standard body armor, more than 100 V-BASS systems have been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Army Active Protection and Electronic Warfare System

The Army Active Protection and Electronic Warfare System integrates advanced survivability equipment and computer programs for hemispherical protection of ground combat vehicles. Detailed trade studies of all survivability technologies conducted under this program led to the Department of Army selecting and approving an optimal suite of survivability equipment for ground vehicle application.

“The hard work of these four individuals underscores TARDEC’s commitment to supporting the Warfighter,” said Dr. Richard McClelland, Director of TARDEC. “Our dedicated associates take great pride in ensuring that the Army remains a relevant and ready force across the operational spectrum. Leading a number of Current and Future Force missions, TARDEC delivers superior technology for a superior Army.”

TARDEC, headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal, Warren, Michigan, is responsible for developing and maintaining vehicles for all U.S. Armed Forces, many federal agencies and more than 60 foreign countries. TARDEC’s National Automotive Center is the Army’s official link to commercial industry, academia and government in developing new dual-use automotive technologies that meet the needs of both defense and commercial industries. Together, they lead the way in providing our Soldiers with vehicles and vehicle technologies that will increase survivability and ensure mobility on the battlefield while reducing design, manufacturing, operations and maintenance costs.

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